

Serial No. 10/773,038
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P10620US

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 12-14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuhn et al. (U.S. Patent 6,227,799). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuhn et al. in view of Norton et al. (U.S. Patent 5,380,154). Claims 9-11 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 18-25 are allowed.

In the present amendment, claims 9 and 17 are cancelled. Claim 25 was previously cancelled. Claims 1, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 16 are amended. Thus, claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18-24 are presented for examination.

Response to 35 USC 102 rejections

Claim 9 limitations are combined into claim 1, making claim 1 allowable per Examiner's listing of allowable subject matter. This makes the claims dependent on claim 1 allowable (now 2-8, 10-14 and 16).

Claim 1 limitations are combined into claim 15, making claim 15 allowable per Examiner's listing of allowable subject matter.

Claims 18-24 were allowed, and are unchanged by this amendment.

Response to 35 USC 103 rejections

Claim 16 now depends from an allowable base claim 1 as amended per above.

Conclusion

All current claims are either allowed or have been amended following Examiner's conditions for allowability. Therefore the Applicant requests entry of this amendment to place the application into condition for allowance.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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